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April 29, 1999 LB 216, 693

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I'd move the adoption of E & R amendments to LB 216.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Question before the body is the adoption of the E & R amendments. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Landis would move to amend with AM0836, I'm sorry, Senator Vrtiska. Excuse me, Senator. Senator Vrtiska, AM0836. (Legislative Journal page 1303.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to open on the amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. AM0836 is an amendment that contains a provision of LB 693 amended, which was amended, and was advanced from Business and Labor Committee with a unanimous vote, and I just have to tell you this amendment does a couple of things. First, it slightly expands the scope of coverage under our workmen's compensation law for volunteer firemen, ambulance drivers, and out-of-hospital emergency care providers. It provides that these people will be covered by workmen's comp when they are engaged in activities as directed by the chief. This expands the area of coverage to include training, attendance at meetings of the department, and other activities as directed by the chief. The current language only covers volunteers when they are working in an emergency situation that they have been officially called to. And I think one thing that's important to note, that this won't mandate workers' comp to volunteers if, for example, the chief directs them to come to his house to play cards or whatever activities that firemen might do away from their...it's only under the...under what is...what's considered that they be engaged in the usual course of trade that be followed. It's not for other frivolous activities. One of the reasons we put this bill in was for the simple reason of making it clear that it's been assumed that these...that volunteers and